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PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

Improvements in and relating to Stamp Affixing Machines.

I, ALFRED WILLIAM SMITH, of 4, Morton Terrace Mews, Victoria, in the County of London, Mechanical Engineer, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

5 My invention relates to improvements in stamp affixing machines of the type in which a plunger working in guides carries a cutting knife, the said plunger operating a stamp grip to feed the stamps forward step by step from a roll so that each stamp is cut off in turn before it is affixed to the envelope or the like by the plunger.

10 According to the present invention, the movement of the plunger is adapted to operate successively a stamp feed; a stamp grip; a tank and wiper adapted to move forward to moisten that portion of the envelope immediately beneath the stamp outlet and then move back to its first position on the continued downward movement of the plunger; and a cutter adapted to cut off the stamp before said stamp is released by the grip and finally affixed by the plunger on 15 the moistened part of the envelope.

In the stamp affixing machine forming the present invention, the knife carried by the plunger is so mounted on spring arms that at the end of the stroke of the plunger it is caught by projections on the plunger guide, which hold the knife back and allow the plunger to go forward to the stamp and stamp it on 20 the envelope without the knife striking the envelope. The stamp grip which is carried by the movement of the plunger is adapted to carry the stamp forward from the roll to a position where it registers exactly with the stamp outlet and then engages a bar on the frame of the machine, which opens the grip and releases the stamp after the knife on the plunger has cut the stamp off from the 25 roll at its perforated connection with the next stamp on the roll to be fed forward into position over the outlet. The tank carrying the wiper is moved forwards with the wiper against the influence of a compression spring through a compound lever by the downward movement of the plunger, in such a manner that the wiper is passed into a position over the stamp outlet and there allowed 30 to fall down to a position where it will wipe over and moisten that portion of the envelope immediately beneath the outlet and is then positively moved back by the continued downward movement of the plunger by a member projecting from the piston rod of the plunger engaging against one of the compound levers to its position of rest before the stamp is cut by the knife carried by the 35 plunger.

The tank is not provided with an air inlet, and the sudden forward oscillatory action of the tank ejects the water feed on to the wiper. The underside of the tank is provided with a projection behind the wiper which is adapted to raise the wiper or pad when it moves forward or back to its position of rest over the 40 guiding surface of the tank slide or the surface upon which the machine is laid, and is thus kept clean and free from dust.

A pivoted bracket is mounted on the stamp guide, and in the bracket a roller [Price 6d.]

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is mounted under which the stamps pass. Adjacent to the roller a bar is arranged carrying one or more projections. These projections are adapted to engage in the perforations between the stamps, and when in engagement hold the stamps firmly during the cutting operation. The said pivoted bracket is provided with an arm extending to the plunger guide and is lifted out of action by a pin projecting from the plunger, so that on the forward movement of the plunger the projections on the bar are in engagement with the upper surface of the stamp owing to the bracket being under the influence of the spring, and drop into the perforations when the stamp has moved forward a predetermined distance, and there hold it in position while the cutting and ejection actions take place. On the upward movement of the plunger, the bracket is lifted on its pivot to an angle with regard to the stamp guide, with the result that the pins on the bar are moved in an arc in the direction of the stamp travel, and are thus lifted out of engagement with the perforations, and disengage the stamps and allow them to be fed forward one stamp by the grip on the next forward movement of the plunger.

A spring on the stamp table or guide keeps the stamp in the correct position in the same alignment as the slide, thus making certain that the stamp grip grips each stamp in the same place.

In the preferred construction at present known to me, I arrange at one end of a suitable bed plate, upright plunger, guides in which the plunger is adapted to be moved vertically by means of a suitable handle. In the top of said upright guides a sleeve is mounted adapted to receive and guide the spindle of the plunger during its stroke. Just behind said plunger upright a bracket is preferably mounted, the upper portion of said bracket forming a table and guide for the stamps, while its under surface may form a guide for a horizontally sliding tank normally retained by a suitable spring at the opposite end of the bed plate to that at which the plunger is mounted. The said sliding tank is provided with an extension in a convenient position on the under surface of which is mounted a wiper or wick of suitable material. The said extension carrying the wick is adapted to be moved with the sliding tank under the bracket forming the guide for the tank, to a position over the stamp outlet arranged in the bed plate beneath the plunger. On the under surface of the tank extension and behind the wiper, a projection is arranged adapted to raise the wiper clear of the surface of the bed plate during the forward and return strokes of the tank before and after the wiper has been moved over the surface of the envelope to which the stamp is to be attached. The tank is operated from the plunger by a member projecting through the plunger guide and adapted to engage a spring arm projecting from a lever arm mounted in a suitable position on the plunger guide and connected at its free end through a link with the spring controlled tank.

Upon the downward movement of the plunger the projecting member engages the spring arm and presses said arm downwards with the result that said lever arm is moved forward on its pivot and consequently carries with it the tank and its extension against the influence of the spring tending to hold said tank in the position at the end of the bed plate. When the said projecting member passes said spring arm, it immediately engages a second toggle lever pivotally mounted at one end to the plunger guide and connected at the other end with the link connecting the first lever arm with the tank, and thus positively presses said toggle lever in a direction towards the tank, with the result that the tank is moved back positively to its initial position during the continued travel of the plunger to the stamp outlet.

It will be readily understood that in this manner the downward movement of the plunger through its guides first moves the tank and the wiper to moisten the surface of the envelope directly beneath the tank outlet and then positively moves said tank back to its initial position before the stamp is cut from the roll and ejected.

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The roll of stamps is mounted on a suitable roller spindle carried by a pivoted upright arranged conveniently at the opposite end of the bed plate to the plunger. The stamps pass from said roller to the stamp table, the under surface of which may form a guide for the horizontally sliding tank. Above the stamp table a spring controlled bracket is mounted in which is arranged a roller adapted to retain the stamps in position upon the table and in a convenient position in said bracket, and in front of said roller, a bar is arranged under which the stamps pass. This bar is provided with one or more teeth adapted to engage in the perforations between the stamps, when a set of perforations register with said teeth.

The spring controlling said bracket tends to hold said bracket in such a position that the engaging teeth on the bar are pressed into engagement with the upper surface of the stamps as they pass successively beneath the bar and are thus ready to drop into the perforations between the stamps to hold that portion of the stamp roll which has passed the bar firmly and stationary during the cutting process. The plunger is provided with a pin projecting laterally through a vertical slot cut in the plunger guide, said pin being adapted to engage with the free end and lift a lever arm mounted on the bracket carrying the stamp roller and pin bar when the plunger is on its return stroke after a stamp has been affixed to the envelope, thereby lifting the bracket carrying the roller and pin arm, on its pivots, and thus moving the pin arm so that the teeth on said arm move in an arc in the direction of the stamp travel and are lifted out of engagement with the perforations and disengage the stamp and allow a fresh stamp to be moved forward by the stamp grip on the next downward movement of the plunger.

The jaw members forming the stamp grip are mounted at the extremity of a spring-controlled arm mounted on a horizontal spindle conveniently arranged at the top of the plunger guide, one of said jaw members being in one with the arm and the other turning upon a pivot carried by said arm. The jaw members of said stamp grip are held in the closed or open positions by means of springs arranged on each side of said grip, said springs being respectively connected with the ends of a pin mounted in the arm carrying the jaw members and with said movable jaw member. The said pair of springs are adapted to hold the jaw members in either the open or closed positions, according to the relation of the springs to the pivot on which the movable member of the jaws is mounted. The rear portion of the heel of the movable jaw member is adapted to engage with a cross bar arranged between a pair of brackets mounted on and projecting from the said members of the plunger guide. This cross bar is adapted to open the jaw members and in doing so to move the springs across the pivot upon which said movable jaw member turns, so that the said springs hold the jaws in the open position. Upon its downward movement the plunger is adapted to engage the lever arm supporting the stamp grip and thus moves said lever arm and with it the stamp grip across the outlet arranged beneath the plunger guides, thus carrying the stamp to a position across the plunger guide on which the continued downward movement of the plunger causes the knife to cut the forward stamp off from the reel, and when the jaw members of the stamp grip are opened, as above described, said plunger affixes the stamp on that portion of the envelope or the like beneath the plunger guide. On the return movement of the plunger, the front portion of the movable jaw member strikes the side of the plunger guide and thus positively moves the jaws back to the closed position at the moment when the edge of the stamp projects within the jaws, where said jaws are held by the springs, which have been again moved across the pivot on which the movable jaw member turns, to their first position.

The spring on the upper surface of the stamp table keeps the stamps in the correct position and in the same alignment as the slide, thus ensuring that the stamp grips at the beginning of each stroke of the plunger, the free end of

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the most forward stamp, and carries said stamp with it to a position over the stamp outlet where the knife cuts it from the next stamp.

If desired, I may arrange a counting mechanism in a suitable position on the machine, adapted to be operated by a pin projecting from the plunger.

I may also arrange a ring adapted to act as a non-return mechanism and to grip the piston rod or spindle of the plunger on any upward motion and thus prevent any upward movement, unless the said stamp plunger is carried right through to the end of its stroke.

Dated this 27th day of August, 1915.

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Liverpool and Bradford,
Patent Agents for the Applicant.

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Improvements in and relating to Stamp Affixing Machines. 15

I, ALFRED WILLIAM SMITH, of 4, Moreton Terrace Mews, Victoria, London, S.W., Mechanical Engineer, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

My invention relates to machines for affixing stamps or the like of the type in which the downward motion of a plunger operates a slidable water tank to moisten the article to which the stamp or the like is to be affixed, at the same time drawing forward the end stamp of a series or strip and severing and affixing same to the article at one operation.

According to my invention I employ a plunger which when it is depressed operates a lever, causing a water tank to be slidden transversely to the plunger, a wick moistening device at one end being pressed into contact with and drawn over the surface to which the stamp is to be affixed. At the same time a swinging arm carrying a pair of grippers which engage the end of a strip of stamps or the like is pressed back so as to draw the strip of stamps forward until the end one reaches a position ready to be severed at the perforations between it and the next upon the strip. The strip of stamps is located in this position during the severing and affixing operations by means of a bar having teeth which engage in the perforations between some other stamps in the strip. Further motion of the descending plunger causes a knife thereon to sever the end stamp at the perforation between it and the next one, and as soon as this is done the swinging arm will bring the grippers against an abutment causing them to open and release the stamp. The moistening device has now returned to its original position, leaving the moistened surface exposed so that the plunger when forced down to its full extent will press the stamp firmly upon the moistened surface, causing it to adhere thereto. In order to prevent the knife from damaging the surface to which the stamp is to be affixed, it is mounted upon the plunger so as to be capable of a limited amount of movement relative to the plunger and means are provided for arresting its downward motion before it comes into contact with the said surface.

A counter may be provided on the machine, adapted to be operated each time a stamp is affixed, and any convenient means may be provided to ensure a full stroke of the plunger being completed in each direction for each operation. Safety devices are also arranged to prevent tampering with or illicit use of the machine.

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In order that my invention may be more readily understood, reference is had to the accompanying drawings in which:—

Fig. 1 is a side view of the stamp affixing machine showing the mechanism in elevation and the casing in section.

5 Fig. 2 is an underneath plan of the casing showing the damping device and the aperture through which the stamp is pressed upon the article to which it is to be secured.

Fig. 3 is a part sectional elevation of the mechanism taken from the opposite side to Fig. 1 and

10 Fig. 4 is a cross section.

Referring to the drawings, the plunger 1 is provided at its upper end with a handle or knob 2 and at its lower end is provided a block 3 which acts to press the stamp or the like onto the surface to which it is to be affixed. The plunger 1 is mounted in a plate 4 on the upper end of the sheet metal brackets 15 or frame 5, and pins 6 and 7 secured one in each side of the block 3 engage in slots 8 in the frame 5 so as to slide down or up in the slots 8 when the plunger 1 is depressed or raised. Upon one side of the frame 5 the lever 9 is pivoted at 10, and a tongue 11 on the lever 9 projects into the path of the pin 6 on the block 3 of the plunger 1 so that a roller 12 on the pin 6 will, when the plunger 20 is depressed, engage against the tongue 11 and turn the lever 9 about its pivot 10 against the action of the spring 13. To the lower end of the lever 9 is pivoted the link 14, the other end of which is pivoted to the sliding water tank 15 so that as the lever 9 turns about its pivot 10, the water tank 15 will be drawn forward so as to moisten the surface to which the stamp is to be affixed. As the lever 9 25 turns about its pivot, the tongue 11 will be pressed to one side until the roller 12 on the pin 6 passes around its end and allows the spring 13 to return the lever 9 to its original position, thus sliding back the water tank 15. A bent arm 16 is hinged at one end to the link 14, and at the other end to a link 17 pivoted near the upper end of the frame 5 so that when the lever 9 is forced back about 30 its pivot 10, the arm 16 will come into the path of the pin 6 and roller 12 so that the further downward movement of the pin 6 and roller 12 will engage against the arm 16 and ensure the return of the water tank 15 to its original position.

The water tank 15 is provided with a forward extension 18 having at its front end a slot 19 containing a wick 20, a series of perforations 21 communicating with the interior of the extension 18 of the tank 15 so as to allow the wick 20 to be maintained always in a moist condition. At the rear end end of the tank 15 is provided a plug or stopper 22, through which the tank may be refilled. On the underside of the extension 18 is provided a short inclined cam face 23 which engages against the edge 24 of the base-plate 25 so as to retain 35 the wick 20 in a raised position when the tank 15 is drawn back. When however the tank 15 is drawn forward by the downward operation of the plunger 1 the cam face 23 on the base of the extension 18 of the tank 15 as it slides over the edge 24 will allow the forward end of the extension 18 to be lowered on to the surface over which the machine has been placed, and the 40 further forward movement will cause the wick 20 to be dragged over the surface, moistening same so as to ensure the adhesion of the stamp when pressed thereon. In order to ensure proper contact of the wick 20 with the surface to be moistened, light springs 26 are mounted upon each side of the frame 5 and their outer ends engage over the upper surface of the water tank 15 so as to 45 press same downwardly to maintain the wick 20 in contact with the surface to be moistened. At the rear end of the tank 15 is provided a pair of perforated lugs 27 which engage over and slide upon the guide rods 28.

The roll 29 of stamps or the like is mounted upon a spindle 30 upon a hinged 50 arm 31 pivoted to the base-plate 25 near its rear end so that the roll 29 may be turned into a convenient position over the water tank 15. The end of the strip of stamps or the like passes under a roller 32 mounted in a fixed platform 33 and is pressed forwardly by means of a series of light spring strips 34, so that the

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perforations between the end stamp and its neighbour will be engaged over sprockets or projections on the bar 35 mounted in the U-shaped member 36 which is pivoted upon the axle of the roller 32. This U-shaped member 36 has a lever arm 37 rigidly secured thereto, which lever arm 37 is raised by means of the pin 7 when the plunger 1 is at the top of its stroke so as to turn the U-shaped member 36 about its pivot, allowing the stamps to be drawn over the bar 35. As the plunger 1 descends however, the lever 37 is released and when the stamps have been drawn forward the required distance, the sprockets or projections on the bar 35 drop into the perforations and locate the stamps in position during the operation of severing the end one.

The operation of feeding forward the stamp to be severed each time the machine is actuated is performed by means of fixed and movable grippers 38 and 39 upon the end of a swing arm 40 hinged between the two sides of the frames 5 upon the same pivot 10 on which the lever 9 turns. The movable jaw 39 of the gripper is hinged to the arm 40 at 41, and is connected to the arm by means of springs 42 connected to its lower end 43. The direction of the pull of these springs 42 is such that in the position shown in Fig. 3 the movable jaw will be held against the fixed jaw 38 so as to grip the stamp between them, so that when the arm 40 is caused to swing about its pivot the end stamp will be drawn into a position ready to be severed and fixed to the moistened surface. The arm 40 is caused to turn about its pivot to the desired extent by means of the lever 44 secured upon the pin 10, upon which the lever arm 40 is mounted. This lever 44 has an extension 45 to which one end of a spring 46 is secured, the other end being connected to a lug 47 on the frame 5, so that the tension of the spring 46 tends to turn the lever arm 44 upwardly about the axis of the pin 10 and maintains it in contact with the pin 7 on the block 3 of the plunger 1. When the plunger 1 is depressed, the pin 7 engaging against the lever 44 will press this downwards around the pivot pin 10 causing the arm 40 to also swing about this axis until the pin 7 engages in the recess 48 in the arm 44 when the end stamp will have been brought to the required position ready for the severing operation. Further downward movement of the plunger 1 will cause the pin 7 to press upon the portion 49 of the lever 44, causing the arm 40 to swing further backwards, bringing the tail 50 of the movable edge 39 of the grippers into contact with a pin 51 mounted in the brackets 47, thus turning the jaw 39 about its pivot 41 and releasing the end of the stamp. The jaw 39 will be turned about its pivot 41 to a sufficient extent to cause the spring 42 to act upon a line upon the opposite side of the pivot to that previously occupied, so that the jaw 39 will be held away from the fixed jaw 38, leaving the grippers open ready to engage upon the stamp strip when returned to their normal position. The flat surface 52 at the end of the arm 44 serves to hold the swinging arm 40 and grippers out of the path of the block 3 during the operation of severing and affixing the stamp. On the return or upward stroke of the plunger 1, the lever 44 and swinging arm 40 again turn about the pivot 10 under the influence of the spring 46 the fixed jaw 38 engaging under the free end of the strip of stamps. When the end 43 of the movable jaw engages against the wall of the frame 5 as shown in Fig. 3, it will be turned about its pivot 41 until the spring 42 causes the jaw 39 to close upon and grip the end of the strip of stamps ready for again drawing out a fresh stamp next time the plunger is actuated.

Mounted upon the side of the block 3 which faces the strip of stamps is a knife 53. This knife 53 is connected to the block 3 by means of a pin 54 engaging in a slot 55 and springs 56 arranged upon the top of the block normally act to press the knife 53 downwardly. As the plunger 1 descends the knife will come in contact with the upper surface of the stamp to be severed and will act together with the edge of the aperture 57 through which the strip of stamps is fed to shear the end stamp from the strip just prior to its being released by the jaws of the gripper upon the end of the swinging arm 40. When the stamp has been thus severed and released, the downward movement of the plunger

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continues until the shoulders 58 upon the knife 53 engage over top pins 59 secured in the frame 5 and which act to arrest the further downward movement of the knife prior to its coming in contact with the surface to which the stamp is to be affixed. The block 3 however continues its downward movement and presses the stamp firmly on to the moistened surface of the object to which it is to be affixed.

In order to register the number of stamps which have been affixed by the machine, a counter 60 is mounted upon a bracket 61 and is provided with an arm 62 having a forked end 63 which engages over the pin 7 so that on the 10 downward movement of the plunger 1 the arm 63 will turn about its pivot and operate the counter; whilst on the return stroke the pin 7 will again engage in the forked end 63 of the arm 62 and return it to the original position. A spring 64 acts between the arm 62 and the frame 5 to retain the arm in a position ready to be again engaged by the pin 7 when it has reached its lowest position. 15 To further ensure the accuracy of the record given by this counter I provide a non-return or full stroke device to ensure a complete movement of the plunger in both directions for each operation of the counter. For this purpose I employ a plate 65 perforated at 66 to receive the plunger 1 and hinged at one end 67 to the frame 5. Its other end 68 is made V-shaped and a spring 69 engages 20 against the V-shaped end. When this spring 69 engages underneath the V-shaped end 68 as shown in Fig. 8 the plate 65 will be inclined in such a position as to allow the plunger 1 to be pressed downwardly, but if any attempt be made to draw the plunger upwards, it will bind in the perforation 66. When however the plunger 1 has reached the bottom of its stroke, a pin 70 thereon will 25 engage upon the upper surface of the plate 65, depressing same until the spring 69 engages over the upper edge of the V-shaped end 68. In this position the plate 65 is inclined downwardly so that whilst the plunger is free to be moved upwards any attempt to depress it will cause it to bind as before. On reaching the top of the stroke however, the block 3 will come in contact with the under 30 surface of the plate 65, forcing it upwardly until the spring 69 again engages on the underside of the V-shaped end 68, in which position the plunger 1 is again free to be depressed.

The whole of the mechanism is enclosed in a simple casing 71 mounted upon the base-plate 25 and provided with a hinged portion 72 at one end which is 35 adapted to be secured by means of a suitable lock 72^a. This hinged portion 72 when opened and turned about its hinge allows the pivoted arm 31 to be turned outwards for the purpose of placing a new roll of stamps or the like thereon. A safety locking device is also provided to prevent the illicit operation of the machine. This comprises a screw 73 having a milled head 74 by means of which 40 it may be rotated so as to cause its hollow end 75 to engage over the pin 7 in the block 3, thus preventing the plunger 1 from being depressed. When this screw 73 has been thus engaged with the pin 7, the end 76 of the lever arm 77 will be drawn downwards by means of the spring 78 so as to engage behind the hollow end 75 of the screw 73, thus preventing it from being disengaged from the pin 7 45 until the hinged portion 72 of the casing 71 has been unlocked and opened by an authorised person.

The operation of the machine is as follows:—On the depression of the plunger 1, the lever 9 is turned about its pivot 10 causing the web 20 on the forward end of the water tank 15 to be drawn over and dampen the surface to 50 which it is desired to affix a stamp and further downward motion of the plunger allows the water tank 15 to be returned to its original position. During this operation the pin 7 will have operated the lever 44 upon the other side of the frame, causing the arm 40 to turn about the axis of the pin 10 and as the end of the strip of stamps is gripped between the fixed jaw 38 on the end of this 55 arm 40 and the movable jaw 39 pivoted thereto, this will cause the end stamp to be drawn out to a position ready to be severed from the strip. When this position has been reached, sprockets or projections on the

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bar 35 engage in the perforations between the next two stamps on the strip and locate the end stamp in the correct position to enable the descending knife 53 to sever it exactly along the line of perforations between it and its neighbour. Further downward movement of the plunger now causes the tail-piece 50 upon the movable jaw 39 to engage against the cross-pin 51 in the frame 5, thus turning the movable jaw about its pivot 11 and releasing the end of the stamp. The plunger now continues on its downward movement, pressing the stamp firmly upon the dampened surface, whilst the knife 53 is arrested and held out of contact therewith by means of the shoulders 58 which engage against stop pins 59 on the frame 5, thus causing the knife 53 to slide relatively to the block 3 against the action of the springs 56 which normally press it downwardly. During this downward movement of the plunger the arm 62 on the counter 60 has been turned about its pivot so as to register the fact that a stamp has been delivered from the machine. When the plunger is again raised, the arm 40 will again swing about its pivot until the fixed jaw 38 engages under the free end of the strip of stamps and the end 43 of the movable jaw 39 will engage against the upright face of the frame 5, causing it to be turned about its pivot until the spring 42 causes it to close firmly upon and grip the free end of the strip of stamps. At the same time the pin 7 will have again engaged in the forked end 63 of the lever 62 on the counter 60 so as to return it to its original position. The lever 9 which operates the damping device is loosely mounted upon its pivot pin 10 so as to allow it to move outwardly, and the under surface of the tongue 11 is inclined so as to enable the roller 12 and pin 6 to engage under and press it outwardly so as to pass by it and reach its original position ready again to actuate it when depressed.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is:—

(1) A stamp affixing machine comprising a plunger, a wick moistening device adapted to be drawn over the surface to which the stamp is to be affixed, a swinging arm carrying a pair of grippers adapted to engage the end of the strip of stamps, means for moving the swinging arm so as to draw the end stamp into position for severing, a knife or cutter upon the plunger adapted to cut off the end stamp, means for locating the strip of stamps so that the end one is cut exactly along its line of perforations, a stop adapted to open the grippers after the stamp has been severed, and means for arresting the motion of the knife so as to hold same out of contact with the surface, whilst a block upon the end of the plunger presses the stamp firmly thereon.

(2) In a stamp affixing machine as claimed in Claim 1; a moistening device comprising a water tank having at its forward end a downwardly projecting wick adapted to be maintained in a moist condition by the water in the tank, a hinged lever having a tongue projecting into the path of a pin upon the plunger, a link connection between the end of the lever and the water tank, guides upon which the water-tank, may slide, a spring or springs adapted to press upon the water tank as it is drawn forward so as to maintain the wick in contact with the surface to be moistened and an inclined or cam surface upon the underside of the tank to raise the wick when the tank is returned to its normal position.

(3) In a stamp affixing machine as claimed in Claims 1 or 2; means for feeding the end stamp comprising a swinging arm having a fixed jaw, a movable jaw hinged thereto, springs adapted to maintain the movable jaw in the open or closed position, a tail-piece to the movable jaw adapted to contact with an abutment so as to close the jaws upon the end of the strip of stamps when the plunger is in the raised position, a lever connected to the swinging arm and adapted to be actuated by the descending plunger to cause the swinging arm to draw the end stamp to a position to be severed, a stop against which the tail-piece of the movable jaw contacts to release the grippers when the stamp has been

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severed, and a spring to return the parts to the normal position after the stamp has been affixed.

(4) In a stamp affixing machine as claimed in Claims 1, 2 or 3; means for locating the strip of stamps so that the end one will be severed exactly along its line of perforations comprising a table over which the strip of stamps pass, a series of light spring strips which press the end stamp upwards, a hinged member having a cross-bar with projections adapted to engage the perforations between adjacent stamps so as to correctly position the end one, a lever connected to the hinged member and adapted to be engaged by a pin on the plunger so as to disengage the projections from the perforations during the feeding of the stamps but which is released so that the projections engage in the perforations and position the strip of stamps during the operation of severing the end one.

(5) In a stamp affixing machine as claimed in Claims 1, 2, 3 or 4; means for severing the end stamp from the strip previous to its being affixed, comprising a knife or cutter supported on one side of the block on the end of the plunger, by means of a pair of spring members each secured at one end to the upper face of the block and situated upon each side of the plunger and passing through apertures provided in upstanding portions on the knife, said spring members acting at the same time to normally press the knife downwards, and a pin upon the side of the block projecting into a vertical slot in the knife to prevent same from moving laterally when it is moved downwards and arrested by the usual stops substantially as described with reference to the drawings.

(6) In a stamp affixing machine as claimed in Claims 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 a safety locking device comprising a screw mounted in the casing and having a hollow inner extremity which is adapted to be engaged over the end of the pin on the plunger which is instrumental in operating several parts of the mechanism as set forth, so as to prevent same from being depressed, and a spring pressed lever situated inside the casing and adapted to engage behind a collar on the hollow ended screw when the same is moved inwards to embrace the pin which cannot be moved until a hinged portion of the casing is unlocked and opened and the lever disengaged, so that the screw can be moved back substantially as described with reference to Figs. 2 and 4 of the accompanying drawings.

(7) The improved stamp affixing machine substantially as described with reference to the accompanying sheet of illustrative drawings.

35 Dated this 26th day of February, 1916.

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5, Chancery Lane, London,
Agents for the Applicant.

Redhill: Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office, by Love & Malcomson, Ltd.—1916.



Fig. 3.

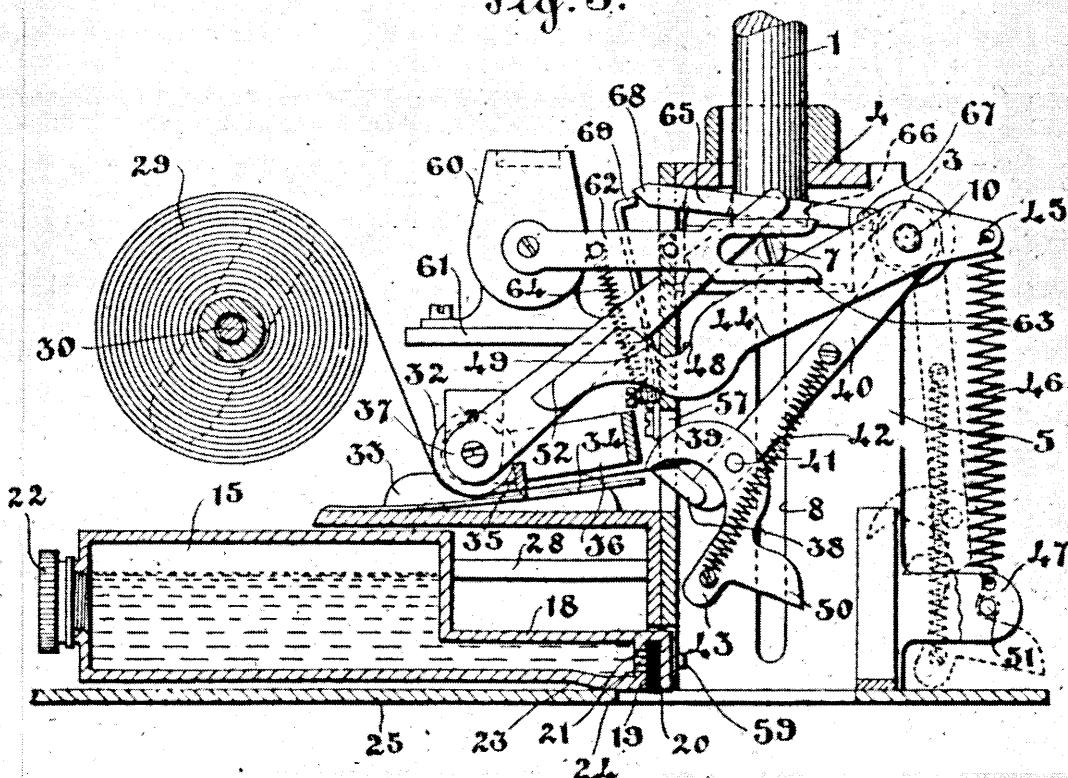


Fig. 4.

